WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Salt industry under priority sector

*144. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to include salt industry under the priority sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the total production of common salt in the country per annum;

(d) whether it is a fact that iodisation of salt has been successful and large scale units have entered into salt production; and

(e) if so, what is the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Industry has been addressing itself to the task of promoting the interests of salt industry. Consequently, there has been a tremendous step-up in the production of iodised salt. In order to enable it to avail itself of concessional credit from public sector banks, it has been decided to include salt industry in priority sector. Manufacture of salt is largely in the small scale sector.

(c) The total production of common salt in the country during the year 1987 is estimated at 99 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) The Salt Iodisation Programme has been successful. While the policy of the Government is to encourage setting up of small scale units for iodisation of salt, a few large scale units have also taken up manufacture of iodised salt. It may further be added that more than 90 per cent of iodised sat is manufactured in the small scale sector.

Recommendations of the Chari Committee

*145. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1412 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on various recommendations made by the Chari Committee; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Transmission Corporation

*147. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Transmission Corporation to work out an integrated approach to the power transmission needs of different regions in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of the proposed set up of the Corporation; and

(c) whether the regional power grids are also proposed to be integrated under the above scheme to ensure equitable distribution of power in all the regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The continued augmentation of Extra High Voltage lines in the Central Sector and creation/strengthening of the Inter-State and Inter-Regional transmission lines, have provided impetus for evolution of a National Power Grid. The possibility of ultimately having to create a separate organisation at the National level to design, construct, maintain and operate the Extra High Voltage lines for transmission of power from one State/Region to another, cannot be ruled out. The matter, however, requires an in-depth study of all aspects of the problem, including set up of the proposed organisation, Regional grids will form part of such a National Power Grid.

White Paper on Public Sector Undertakings

*148. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay a white paper on the public sector undertainkgs before Parliament; and

(b) if so, when and what action has so far been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The White Paper on Public Sector is under finalisation and will be placed before Parliament at the soonest possible.

Unintended Benefits by IDPL and HAL

*149. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of bulk drugs being produced by IDPL and HAL which were under price control under DPCO, 1979 and have been exempted from price control under DPCO, 1987;

(b) what was the price of each under DPCO, 1979 present price, percentage increase alongwith production of each during the last three years, year wise;

(c) the names of the drugs for which these companies got foreign technologies, installed plant and machinery and could not succeed in commercial production;

(d) what was the technology cost paid on each, value of plant and machinery installed and what was the production of each during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether it is a fact that these companies made crores of rupees as unintended benefit; and

(f) if so, the amount worked out under Para 7(2) of DPCO, 1979?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Information to the extent available is given in the Annexure in respect of M/s IDPL [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 53]. All the bulk drugs produced by M/s. HAL which were under price control of DPCO, 1979 continue to be under the price control of DPCO, 1987.

(c) To the extent information is available, no foreign technologies employed by these companies resulted